

**JOEL D. WALTON MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST
7844 MADISON AVE | SUITE 108 | FAIR OAKS, CA 95728**

NEW CLIENT REGISTRATION FORM

(Please Print)

Email Address:			Today's Date:			
PATIENT INFORMATION						
Patient's last name:		First:	Middle:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Marital status (circle one) Single / Mar / Div / Sep / Wid
Is this your legal name? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If not, what is your legal name?	(Former name):		Birth date:	Age:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Street address:			Cell phone no.:		Home phone no.:	
P.O. box:	City:		State:		ZIP Code:	
Occupation:	Employer:			Employer phone no.:		

Referred by:

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			
Name of local friend or relative:	Relationship to patient:	Cell phone no.:	Home phone no.:
The above information is true to the best of my knowledge.			
_____ <i>Patient/Guardian signature</i>		_____ <i>Date</i>	

Billing Information

Session Amount \$ _____ per 50 Minute session

Will Pay With ____ Cash ____ Check ____ Credit Cards

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Code on Back _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Authorization Signature: _____ Date: _____

Informed Consent

Joel D. Walton, M.A.

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist | License No. 98304
7844 Madison Ave | Suite 108 | Fair Oaks | CA | 95628 | 916-587-1948

Welcome!

The following information should be helpful to you as you enter therapy and is meant to serve as an agreement between us as we begin working together. Please read each section of this agreement. Feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Faith-Based Cultural Competence

I strive to provide culturally competent counseling to all clients, regardless of their faith or belief system—including those who do not identify with any faith. My goal is to create a safe and supportive space where clients can explore how their worldview, values, and/or faith shape their daily lives. Clients are never pressured or directed toward any belief but are encouraged to reflect on what is meaningful to them in their personal journey.

Length of Treatment

Treatment term is based on the goals you've set for yourself. You are free to cancel treatment anytime. However, it is recommended that you maintain a minimum number of sessions based on mutually establish goals for your case.

Risks and Benefits of Psychotherapy

In most cases, the process of psychotherapy brings about positive changes in clients' lives. In some instances, however, the psychotherapeutic process can bring up strong negative emotions and distress. The goal of therapy is to reduce such problems over time. Most people find that the long-term benefits of therapy outweigh the short-term risks. You maintain the right to seek a second opinion at any time, and referrals to other therapists or agencies will be given at your request. Successful therapy requires that you take an active role in your own treatment, and work in partnership with your therapist. It is important that you are a willing and active participant in your treatment. If you have any questions about your treatment or treatment options, please ask.

Confidentiality

Maintaining confidentiality is very important in any therapeutic setting. Every effort will be made to keep your identity and personal information private. Unless you give written consent, I'm bound by law to keep your information confidential. In the case of couples or family therapy, records may only be released if all parties sign a written consent form. If we should meet in public, it's my policy **NOT** to initiate contact with you. This is for your protection. You are free to break your own confidentiality by talking to me. Please beware doing so you may not be able to maintain your confidentiality based on others presence. In any event, I will not discuss details of your case with you outside of regularly scheduled sessions.

There are a few exceptions to confidentiality that you need to be aware of. I am required and/or allowed by law to disclose certain information about you, without your permission,

for the following reasons...

1. **Duty to Protect:** *If I have reasonable suspicion that you are actively planning to harm yourself, I will take steps, up to and including, hospitalizing you against your wishes, to prevent a tragedy.*
2. **Duty to Warn:** *If I have reasonable suspicions that you are planning an act of violence against another person, I have a duty to warn them of such planned acts.*
3. **Duty to Report:** *If I have reasonable suspicion to suspect your involvement, or you inform me of an active case of child/elder/or dependent adult abuse and/or neglect I am mandated by law to make report such suspicions. This includes active **child-pornography usage and/or any sexual contact/communications with a minor less than 16 years of age.***
4. **Duty to Comply with Court Orders:** *If I'm instructed by a Court Order to release your information, I'm legally bound to comply with such orders.*
5. **Duty to Respond to Emergencies:** *If a medical or psychiatric emergency arises in which your information is essential to an individual's safety, it may be released without your permission.*

Confidentiality with Respect to Minors

Minors have the right to confidential therapy. For parents or legal guardians who share legal custody, both parents must consent to their child's treatment before the second session. Session records will not be released to parents or guardians without the minor's written consent. A minor must also have written parental consent to participate in therapy group(s).

Any information shared by one parent will be shared with the other parent through the therapist, if both parents have legal custody. As the therapist I will **NOT** communicate with attorneys for either parent or guardian. Records will only be released by court order, or by consent of both the minor and the parents.

Confidentiality with Couples

Couples are seen as a single "Unit" of treatment, even if seen individually. If during a private conversation you or your partner disclose significant information with me, and I feel it's in the best interest of the relationship to disclose it to your partner, I will encourage you to share that information voluntarily with them in a joint session. If you do not share this information, I may elect to terminate our working relationship. Information that doesn't directly affect the couples' relationship, or that would serve no benefit to the partner, are not relevant. Information that affects the couples' relationship or could influence the partner on whether to stay or go, are relevant. This position allows for some of the benefits of confidentiality without the drawbacks of holding to a rigid **No-Secrets Policy**. (*An example of a confidential item would be details of past sexual abuse. An example of a non-confidential item would be an affair.*)

Fees

Therapy sessions are charged at a rate of **\$165.00** per session for individuals, **\$180.00** for Couples, and **\$200.00** for Family sessions. *A sliding scale fee may be offered when needed based on hardship.* Sessions are 50 minutes in length, with the fee due at the beginning of the session. Payment can be made with cash, credit card, or check - made out to **JOEL WALTON**. This is a \$35.00 fee for returned NSF checks.

Missed or Rescheduled Appointments

Should you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, please call at least **24 hours** in advance, if possible. *Please note: no shows, or cancellations in less than 24 hours of the scheduled appointment will be charged full fee.*

Use of Technology

A variety of digital technologies will be used to aid and simplify your treatment. These technologies including, but not limited to, processing emails, access to your client web portal, booking and sending appointment reminders, recording session(s) using artificial intelligence (AI) to document treatment, as well as use of electronic billing and payments. Every effort has and will be taken to safeguard your personal information within approved industry practices. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to ask for further clarification.

How to Reach Me

Messages can be left on my confidential office voicemail: **916-587-1948**. You can also email me at joel.walton@mendedlife.com. If you think you have a medical or psychiatric emergency, please dial 911 for assistance, or call one of the below numbers. Sacramento Country Mental Health 24-hour Crisis Hotline **(888) 881-4881** - El Dorado County Mental Health 24-hour Crisis Hotline at **530-622-3345** - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **988**

Court Involvement & Fees for Testimony

Unless other arrangements have been made, if I am subpoenaed or otherwise required to testify in court regarding your case, whether as a **percipient witness** (fact witness with professional expertise) or otherwise, please be aware of the following:

- My role as a therapist is to provide clinical services, not legal testimony. If I am required to testify, I can only speak to factual observations and my direct professional involvement in your case. I do not provide expert opinions unless formally retained as an expert witness.
- Court-related services are not covered by insurance and must be paid in advance by the requesting party. My fees for legal proceedings are as follows:
 - Preparation & Documentation (e.g., record review, correspondence, reports): \$200.00 per hour
 - Depositions, Testimony, or Court Appearance: \$200.00 per hour (including wait time) with a minimum of 8 hours
 - Travel Time: \$200.00 per hour, plus mileage reimbursement at the IRS standard rate
 - Administrative Costs (e.g., copying records, responding to legal requests): \$200.00 per hour
- A retainer of \$1,600.00 is required at least 14 days before any court appearance or deposition. If the hearing is rescheduled or canceled with less than 48 hours' notice, the retainer will be non-refundable.

Fees for Written Reports, Letters, and Legal Documentation

If you request or require a written report, letter, or other documentation for court proceedings, probation, attorneys, or any other legal entity, please be aware of the following:

- I will only provide factual summaries based on my direct involvement and clinical observations. I **do not** provide forensic evaluations, recommendations, or expert opinions unless I have been formally retained and there is a signed agreement in place.
- All legal documentation requests must be submitted in writing and signed by client and/or guardian, if client is under 18 years of age, with at least **14 days' notice**. I reserve the right to decline requests that I believe could negatively impact the therapeutic relationship or if I determine the request is outside of my scope of practice.
- My fees for written reports and legal documentation are as follows:
 - Brief Letter (e.g., Attendance Verification, General Treatment Summary): \$100.00
 - Comprehensive Report (e.g., Clinical Summary, Treatment Progress, Court-Requested Reports): \$200.00 per Hour
 - Response to Legal Inquiries or Requests for Records: \$200.00 per hour (including correspondence, review, and/or preparation time)
- Payment must be made in full before the document is released. Once a report is completed, no revisions will be made without an additional fee.

Please note that written reports intended for legal purposes can be used in ways that may be outside my control. If you are uncertain about the necessity of a report, I strongly recommend consulting with an attorney before making a request.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand this document, that you voluntarily agree to participate in therapy, and you agree to the limits of our confidentiality and payment policies outlined above.

Print Client Name:

Phone Number:

Client signature:

Date:

Parent/Legal Guardian signature/relationship to child:

Date:

If the client being seen is under the age of 12, legal guardian needs to consent to treatment.